(b) total number of designs on currency notes and designs on other currency which have been used till date; and

(c) whether Government are aware that there is discontentment in the country due to cross sign inscribed on new two rupees currency coins presently in use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The selection of sign and picture incorporated in currency notes (design) and other currency is usually based on the country's culture, its development, achievements in science and technology, art, flora & fauna as also the leading national personalities.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Though there had been a few articles in the Newspapers and a few representations, there is no discontentment amongst the general public as the symbol is like arithmetical sign "plus" with four dots and denotes "unity in diversity".

Concrete policy for farmers

†4368. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any concrete policy to lift the farmers of the country from economic deterioration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any scheme to provide relief to the poor, debt ridden and famine striken farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) On 18.06.2004 the Government announced a package to double the flow of agriculture credit within three years, which has been achieved in two years itself. The credit flow to agriculture during 2005-06 is Rs. 1,80,486 crore as against Rs. 86,931

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

crore during 2003-04. The package, *inter-alia*, provided reschedulement of debt and debt relief measures for the farmers.

Besides, to reduce the burden of interest on Crop Loans availed by farmers for Kharif and Rabi 2005-06, an amount equal to two percentage points of the borrower's liability on the principal amount upto Rs. 1,00,000/- was credited to their account. Thereafter, from Kharif 2006, to ensure that the farmer receives Short-Term Production Credit at 7% with an upper limit of Rs. 3 lakh on the principal amount, the Government is providing interest subvention of 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks on their lending from their own resources and refinance at concessional rates to cooperative banks and RRBs on their borrowings from NABARD.

Further, 31 debt stressed districts in the four states of Maharashtra (06), Andhra Pradesh (16), Karnataka (06) and Kerala (03), the relief package was announced for farmers by the Government. It provides for waiver of the entire interest on overdue loans as on 01.07.2006 over a period of 3-5 years with a one year moratorium. The Government has released Rs. 1359.13 crore as its 50% share towards interest waiver for 31 districts.

Average annual per capita income

†4369. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the average annual per capita income in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the average per capita debt during the same period; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to bring the States with less per capita income than National average and more per capita debt than National average at par with National average?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Figures of per capita income (per capita Net State Domestic Product) of the States for the period 2002-03 to 2004-05 for which the data is given in the Statement along with per capita outstanding liabilities of the State Government (public debt). (*See* below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.